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Academic's CIA Research Not Improper

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 28—A foreign affairs expert at Harvard broke no university rule when he examined the demise of dictators in research secretly financed by the Central Intelligence Agency, the school decided.

The research by Samuel P. Huntington, 56, head of Harvard's Center for International Affairs, did not significantly involve the university, Harvard ruled Thursday.

Huntington was the second professor in four months involved in controversy over a CIA connection.

Earlier, Professor Nadav Safran resigned as head of the center's Middle East program after disclosures that he took CIA money,

without notifying the university, to write a book on Saudi Arabia and stage a conference on the Middle East at the university.

Huntington, who was coordinator for security planning at the National Security Council in the Carter administration, was asked to help in research by Richard K. Betts, a Brookings Institution fellow who later became a visiting Harvard professor.

Betts' contract with the CIA, which Harvard officials said he signed before going to work for the university, required that the agency's connection with the project be kept secret and permitted the CIA to review the work before publication.

While Harvard permits professors to work for the CIA, it forbids

them to sign contracts permitting secrecy.

A graduate student assisted in Huntington's research, primarily using public documents in Harvard's library, said A. Michael Spence, dean of faculty. "Harvard's institutional involvement in the contract was not significant," Spence's report said.

An article based on Huntington's research and mentioning nothing about the CIA funding appeared in the winter edition of the Harvard quarterly, International Security.

The article, "Dead Dictators and Rioting Mobs," received "pro forma" CIA approval, Betts said. The article concluded, "American interests will generally be best served if longstanding dictators die in bed, soon."